

MEETINGS

In this department every effort is made to publish timely announcements of future meetings, as well as reports of events and papers presented at past meetings. For this we rely on the organizers of meetings to send us announcements as early as possible, and on colleagues in each country to send us reports of local activities in the history of mathematics. Unnecessary duplication may be avoided by checking with the Editor or the nearest member of the International Commission listed on the back cover of *Historia Mathematica* before submitting reports to this department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First European Congress of Mathematics

Paris, July 6–10, 1992

On the occasion of its foundation meeting, the EMS (European Mathematical Society) agreed on the principle of a European Congress of Mathematics to be held every fourth year. The first of these congresses will take place from July 6–10, 1992, in Paris.

Among the objectives of the Congress is to encourage a *prospective reflection* on the relations between mathematics and society in Europe and in this context we have been charged to report on the theme: *Mathematical Europe: Myth or Historical Reality?* The project, as now conceived, includes the publication of a collective volume on the subject and a round table discussion on the occasion of the Congress. The organizing committee for this project is composed of the following persons:

Catherine Goldstein (University of Paris XI/CNRS, France), Jeremy Gray (Open University, Great Britain), Jens Høyrup (Roskilde, Denmark), Jim Ritter (University of Paris 8, France), Norbert Schappacher (Max Planck Institut Bonn, Germany; University of Strasbourg, France), Erhard Scholz (Bergische Universität-Gesamthochschule, Wuppertal, Germany).

Mathematics as a discipline is often taken as a model of ideological autonomy and independence. Its development is generally seen as linear, beginning with the geometry of Euclid, and really taking off in 17th-century Europe.

Our intention is to try to understand why and how mathematics has actually been done in Europe, to investigate its national and supranational components, and to determine if it is really legitimate to speak of a “European” (or “Western”) mathematics and, if so, in what sense.

Among the specific questions (though they are certainly nonexhaustive) are the following:

- The influence of Greek mathematics on the West: its components, its limits. Greece seen as origin, as ancestor, as model, as foil. Greece, a part of the East or archetype of the West? Did Greek mathematics create European mathematics?
- Professional mathematics in Europe and academic mathematics: contacts, influences, variations, and unities.
- Mathematical relations in Europe: information exchange, national styles and rivalries. The influence of these components of mathematical development. National styles, local styles, “schools.”
- Non-European mathematics and Europe. Arabic language mathematics in the West: education, transmission, methodology. European rereadings, European rejections.
- Adaptations and idiosyncrasies of educational programs in mathematics during the 18th and 19th centuries: the École Polytechnique and the Universität Berlin as twin models.

—Influence of politico-economic conflicts and priorities on mathematical development. The image of “foreign” mathematics in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We invite your participation and welcome propositions for papers. If you are interested, please send a short (one page) résumé as soon as possible to:

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Tagung zur Geschichte der Mathematik

Vom 1. bis zum 4. November 1990 fand in Wuppertal eine Tagung für junge Historiker der Mathematik statt.

Das Ziel der Tagung war es, anfangenden Mathematikhistorikern die Möglichkeit zu bieten, einen (informellen) Vortrag zu halten und ebenfalls anfangende Kollegen kennenzulernen. Das Thema war die Geschichte der Mathematik in der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts.

Es gab insgesamt 16 Teilnehmer, die zum größten Teil aus dem Osten und dem Westen Deutschlands kamen und von denen 11 einen Vortrag gehalten haben. Die meisten Vorträge hatten Beziehungen zu jetzigen Forschungen der Sprecher.

Ende Oktober oder Anfang November 1991 wird eine derartige Tagung zum zweiten Mal organisiert. Dieses Jahr ist das verbindende Thema die Geschichte der Mathematik der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts. Die Tagung wird jedenfalls in Deutschland stattfinden, wahrscheinlich in Berlin oder Tübingen. Vorträge können entweder auf deutsch oder auf englisch gehalten werden.

Für weitere Auskünfte schreiben Sie bitte an

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